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PROGRAM Good Morning America STATION WMAL TV
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SUBJECT An Interview With Director Colby

MARGARET OSMER: David, an Italian newspaper published this morning what it claims are the names of eight CIA agents in Italy. One of those names is said to be the CIA's chief in Italy, and all eight are reported attached to the U.S. Embassy in Rome. The author of the article is said to be Steve Wiseman (?), an American journalist who was formerly an editor of Ramparts magazine.

On Thursday ABC's Barry Dunsmore talked at length with CIA Director William Colby at the Agency's headquarters in Langley, Virginia. They discussed the recent attacks on both the CIA in this country and abroad. In this extended portion of that interview, correspondent Dunsmore asked Colby about the effects of those attacks on the CIA's morale and operations.

DUNSMORE: Mr. Colby, the publishing of names of CIA agents in Europe has become almost now an endemic problem, it seems. What's your reaction to it?

DIRECTOR COLBY: Well, I think it's obviously one of the risks of our business and one of the problems that we face. From foreigners it's a thing that we have to concern ourselves with and protect ourselves as much as possible. What I'm concerned about more than that, though, is the participation of Americans in this process, of trying to stimulate this and trying to get it to happen. The active pressure by various Americans to produce these names, to do the studies, to describe the systems by which people can be identified, I think is really just outrageous and very reprehensible.

Anybody who doesn't like the CIA -- I understand there are people that don't like it for reasons that appear acceptable

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-2-

to them -- they have every right to appeal to our Congress to make such -- take such -- positions as they want to in this country. But I don't believe an American should try to expose another American to possible danger. And I mean danger, danger of death, other dangers to the individual.

DUNSMORE: Some people would say that it's not necessarily a bad thing that all this has happened. I gather you would not agree with that.

DIRECTOR COLBY: Well, certainly it is a bad thing that all of it has happened. I think it is a good thing that some of it has happened. I think it a good thing that this agency will, from now on, operate clearly under the Constitution and under the law. There's no question about that, that is a good thing. But I think it's a bad thing if we destroy confidence in our ability to conduct confidential relationships around the world because we cannot expect other countries, under their standards, to continue to collaborate with us to the degree that we need to in this world. And this still is a dangerous world, there are hostile people in this world who are aimed at aggrandizing their power at our expense.

DUNSMORE: How can there be congressional oversight and still plug the leaks, as it were?

DIRECTOR: Well, very simply. A very simple step which is that those Congressmen and Senators who are authorized to know the information about the intelligence business, that they keep the material to themselves, that they operate truly as representatives of the American people, not as conduits of the secrets to the American people.

DUNSMORE: I've heard you being criticized for a lack of candor, but I've also heard you being criticized for being too candid, the old story of Mr. Colby being stopped for a speeding ticket and confessing to murder. Do you think that at times you've been too frank or too candid?

DIRECTOR COLBY: No. I think it was necessary. I think that we would not be in a position of covering up something and claiming secrecy where it doesn't exist; where something was wrong and therefore those few things that were wrong I've brought out.

I've also brought out the fact that two and a half years ago we issued our own directives that they not be done again. And we cleaned ourselves up, nobody cleaned us up. We cleaned ourselves up before any of this came out. So the candor of coming out and admitting that we did a few things wrong, yes, I've done that. I perhaps didn't anticipate the degree to which they would be sensationalized and the sense of proportion would be so poor as to the real extent of the wrong things, or the misdeeds or the missteps -- which is a very small number -- as against the positive

-3-

things thjat his agency has done. I perhaps didn't appreciate that sufficiently. I wasn't trained in the business of public relations or political debate.

DUNSMORE: It's said that old CIA agents have a very difficult time getting other jobs. What are you going to do?

DIRECTOR COLBY: Well, I have in mind maybe to write a book about the new intelligence that I've been speaking about, to try to change the image from the James Bond and the Mata Hari's and so forth, to what modern intelligence is really all about. And then I think I may go back to my original career of the law, where -- as I was a lawyer at one point some years ago. I have a little cram course ahead of me to catch up on what's happening to the law in the last few years, but I certainly have had a lot of experience being a witness this past year.

OSMER: CIA Director William Colby.